



FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO HIGHER EDUCATION

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

TO STUDENTS:

Making the change from high school to an institution of higher education is challenging for any student. If you are a student who has a disability you may have additional needs to consider.

This guide was developed to assist you and your family as you think about, and choose, a college. It will assist you with the types of questions that you can ask your potential colleges in order to make good choices and your transition to college as smooth as possible.

KNOW YOUR KEY CONTACTS!

Who is/are my key contact(s) in the college or training site who will assist me to arrange my accommodations?

Name:

Phone: _____

If I am involved with the Office of Rehabilitation Services, who is my Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor?

Name:

Phone: _____

CONSIDERATIONS IN THE GUIDE:

HOW WILL I GET TO THE CAMPUS?

HOW WILL I MOVE AROUND THE CAMPUS?

DO I NEED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES?

WHAT ARE MY SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION NEEDS RELATED TO CLASSES?

WHAT DO I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IF I LIVE ON CAMPUS?



This guide was developed by Judy York, Rehabilitation Technology Consultant, BIONEXUS, Inc. in collaboration with the Assistive Technology Partnership (ATAP), the Rhode Island "Tech Act" Project, through award # H224A30012, US Department of Education.

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BIO/NEXUS: 1-800-485-5040

This guide is available in alternate formats. Additional copies may be requested through the ATAP number above, or from ORS through your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or the ATAP Project Director. Please feel free to photocopy any part of the guide.

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We welcome your comments. Please let us know if this guide was helpful? How could it be changed to be more useful to you?

QUESTIONS IN PLANNING HIGHER EDUCATION

1. HOW WILL I GET TO THE CAMPUS?

- ◆ What do I do to make sure I wake up on time to get to classes?
- ◆ Will I commute daily?
- ◆ What type of transportation will I use?
- ◆ If I drive, how early do I need to leave home? What is the commuter traffic like? What are the parking possibilities at the school?
- ◆ Do I need to take the bus? Am I eligible to use Paratransit services? What is the schedule? Where will the bus leave me off? If I am not eligible for Paratransit, how do I get to the bus stop?
- ◆ What time do I leave home? What time do I leave school?
- ◆ What do I do when the weather prevents me from getting to class?
- ◆ Can I maneuver the door to school buildings on my own? Are there automatic door openers? If not, who will assist me?

Who do I contact?

2. HOW WILL I MOVE AROUND THE CAMPUS?

- ◆ What will I do if I'm in class and the weather presents a serious storm that prevents me from getting back to my dorm room?
- ◆ How well does the school plow and shovel in a snow storm?
- ◆ What kind of distance do I have to travel between dorm and classroom buildings, library, and student center?
- ◆ What is the campus transportation system? What do I need to know about setting up a schedule? Are there any times when campus transportation has been known to be unreliable. If I miss a class because of this, what am I supposed to do?

Who do I contact?

3. DO I NEED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES?

- ◆ How will I carry my books?
- ◆ Do I need assistance in removing a winter coat or removing a book carrier/pouch?
- ◆ Do I need assistance in the classroom such as:
 - to set any thing on a desk
 - setting up typing aides
 - getting in and out of the classroom
 - maneuvering to a position in the class room
 - hearing the instructor or taking notes
 - putting my class work back into a book carrier or pouch
 - are there technology solutions that will help?
 - who will provide the assistance?
- ◆ Does the school offer tutoring assistance? Who provides it, staff or students? How available is it? Do I need to make an appointment? Am I expected to stop by each week, or show up only when I need to?
- ◆ How can I obtain the technology that I need?
- ◆ Can I explain what I think I need?
- ◆ What are my responsibilities?

Who do I contact?

4. WHAT ARE MY SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION NEEDS FOR CLASSES?

A) What do I need in the classroom?

- ◆ Will there be a desk or table top in every classroom to fit my needs? Do I need this accommodation?

- ◆ How do I make sure that the school knows my needs?
- ◆ Are notetaker services required? Who will provide the service?
- ◆ What options are available for my taking tests that are commonly completed by students in class?
- ◆ Does the school offer FM Loops for students with hearing impairments?
- ◆ Can I explain what I think I need?
- ◆ Will I be permitted to tape my classes?
- ◆ Will I be permitted to bring a laptop or portable keyboard into the classroom for notetaking?

B) What do I need to participate in other school/class related activities?

- ◆ If the class requires "hands-on" activities that I am unable to perform, what is the common alternative?
- ◆ How has the school accommodated students with physical differences in a lab?
- ◆ How has the school accommodated field trips?
- ◆ Is physical education required? If so, what are the alternatives that will work for me?
- ◆ Is a keyboarding class required for graduation? If so, is the school flexible with acceptable substitutes?

C) How do I complete assignments?

- ◆ Does the school's library easily provide physical assistance to pull books, reference materials and periodicals for me as I may require completing an assignment?
- ◆ If I require a reference book for an assignment that normally would not be able to be "checked out", and I cannot easily use the library, how can I be accommodated? If not, what should I expect to do?
- ◆ Does the school offer a computer lab? If so, how many computers? Is it accessible? When is it open? Are there busy times? Are there staff or students available to help learn the software? Are the computers located in quiet areas?
- ◆ Are there alternate formats for me related to school information?

- ◆ Does the school offer internet access?
- ◆ Are there any resources to teach me how use this if necessary?

5. WHAT DO I NEED FOR MY PERSONAL LIFE IF I LIVE ON CAMPUS?

A) My Dorm Room:

- ◆ What is the size of my dorm room? (GET MEASUREMENTS/FLOOR PLAN OF ALL CHOICES)
- ◆ Do I need to share the room with a roommate?
- ◆ Is there a choice of bed frames/styles?
- ◆ Is there storage space outside of the room that is safe? How much storage room is there?
- ◆ Where are the electrical outlets in the average/chosen room?
- ◆ Where is the telephone jack? If only one, can an additional telephone jack be installed in the room (for modem connection)?
- ◆ How does the door open and close to the room? Can I open and close it on my own? If not, what will be necessary? Will the school make these changes? How does the door lock? Can I lock the door myself?
- ◆ What is the storage for clothes (i.e. hooks, closet bars and drawers)? Can I reach the storage area easily?
- ◆ Is there a desk that I can fit under comfortably?

B) Meal Time:

- ◆ If food is usually served "cafeteria style", do I need assistance? Who will provide the assistance?
- ◆ Do I have any food allergies or requirements? Does the infirmary need to be informed?

C) My Personal Hygiene Needs:

- ◆ Where is the bathroom closest to the dorm room?

- ◆ Do I need personal assistance? If so, does the school provide an assistant? If not, does the school help find a personal assistant?
- ◆ Do I need any special fixtures for my personal needs: grab bars? Shower chair or seat? Bathtub vs. shower? Removable shower spray? Are these items already in place?
- ◆ Are the sinks and mirrors at the right height?
- ◆ Can I store personal items in the bathroom (soap, towels, shampoo, etc.)? Do I need to carry them in? If so, how will I do this?

D) My Laundry Needs:

- ◆ Where are the laundry facilities?
- ◆ How do I get laundry back and forth to my room?

Who do I contact?

6. HOW DO I SHOP, BANK, AND SOCIALIZE?

- ◆ Where is the bank or bank machine located?
- ◆ Where is the common entertainment located?
- ◆ Where are the stores that I might shop?
- ◆ Can I get to all of these places?
- ◆ Are there student organizations I need to know about?

Who do I contact?

7. OTHER QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE:

Who do I contact?

Considering
Assistive Technology
In Transition